EPA AMCO Superfund Site & Lead Cleanup
Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting
December 10, 2013

EPA Attendees: Steve Calanog
Sarah Cafasso

EPA Contractors: Kent Baugh/ITSI-Gilbane
Yash Nyznyk/CDM Smith
Ryan Wood/CDM Smith

Community Members: Brian Beveridge (Community Co-Chair)
John Schweizer (Technical Adviser)
Bradley Angel (Greenaction)
Erin Chapman (Greenaction)
Jonathan Gast (Representing Congresswoman Barbara Lee)
David Carter (SPNA)
Amy D. Kyle (UC Berkeley)
Randy Wilk (Resident)
Eugene Buechele (Resident)
Anna M. Gallo (Community Member)
Porshae Rivers (Resident)
Jay Itote (Community Member / Farm2city)

Purpose of Meeting

- *Report results from the recent Lower Aquifer Well project and the 3rd Street Sewer Interceptor Investigation project.*
- *Provide description of the groundwater plume beneath the site.*
- *Present overview of the Superfund process and the outlook for 2014.*
- *Present results of the Greenaction survey related to South Prescott Park and the playground structure.*

Welcome & Introductions

Sarah Caffaso and Brian Beveridge (Community Co-Chairs)

- Brief introductions by each participant, including name and involvement with project.
- Review meeting agenda (Sarah Caffaso).
- Brief History of the AMCO site (Brian Beveridge):
  - 1997: First complaint related to the thermal oxidizer prompted community meetings.
  - EPA has spent a number of years characterizing the Site.
  - 2003: AMCO added to the Superfund list.
  - 2011: EPA Remedy Review Board performed technical review of the Draft Focused FS (including FS-level cost estimate for site remediation). The Remedy Review Board recommended further characterization of the nature and extent of contamination in soil at the former AMCO facility to help reduce estimated cost of remediation.

Results from Recent Investigation Efforts

Lower Aquifer Well Installation (Steve Calanog)

- Objective: To determine whether DNAPL (dense non-aqueous phase liquid) from the AMCO site had infiltrated through the clay layer and impacted water quality within the Lower Aquifer.
- In August 2013, completed a borehole to 160 feet below ground surface (bgs), and installed a well screened in the upper depth of the Lower Aquifer.
- Lower Aquifer well was double-cased to ensure that contamination present in the Upper Aquifer did not migrate into the Lower Aquifer during drilling and well installation activities.
- Conclusion: Contamination in the Upper Aquifer has not impacted water quality in the Lower Aquifer.

3rd Street Sewer Interceptor Investigation (Steve Calanog)

- Objective: To determine if the bedding for the 3rd Street interceptor could serve as a preferential pathway for lateral migration of contamination.
- In September 2013, three soil borings were advanced on 3rd Street at locations along the alignment of the interceptor.
- Conclusion: Sewer interceptor bedding does not serve as a preferential pathway for migration of contaminated groundwater from the former AMCO facility.

Overview of Current Groundwater Plume (Steve Calanog)

- Footprint of free-phase NAPL is found in the source area (near the warehouse).
- Dissolved phase contamination plume is larger than the footprint of the source area, but we are finding that microbial degradation is occurring, contributing to a stable or shrinking groundwater plume.

Additional Input related to the Recent Investigation Efforts (John Schweizer)

- Observed construction of the well in the field to provide an independent party to validate that cross-contamination during the Lower Aquifer well installation did not occur.
- In response to question from resident, Mr. Schweizer stated that we are confident that biological degradation is occurring based on the decrease in concentrations of certain contaminants of concern and the presence of degradation daughter products.
- Kent Baugh also added that in addition to the chemical data, microbial data support the finding that biodegradation is occurring.

Next Steps (Steve Calanog)

- Remedial investigation activities at the Site have been concluded.
- The Feasibility Study Report, which will evaluate various remedial technologies for cleanup of the site, needs to be prepared as a first step.
- EPA would like to have a plan for site remediation in-place by next year.
- Remedial action is likely to include thermal system with vapor extraction. Brief description of a possible system:
    1. Install a number of extraction wells with co-located heating elements within the vicinity of the free-phase portion of the site. Such a system would function to enhance the volatilization of VOCs.
    2. VOCs (in the vapor phase) would be collected with a vacuum extraction system.
    3. With the concrete cap remaining in-place, piping and heating elements would be installed through the concrete cap.
    4. Vapor collection system would direct VOC vapors through a nitrogen-cooled condensation unit, converting the VOCs to a liquid phase. This liquid would be collected in drums for off-site management.
    5. System exhaust would be run through granular activated carbon units, preventing VOC emissions to the atmosphere.

6. The estimated time frame to complete this phase of the remediation (removal of NAPL and VOCs from the source area) is 12 months or less.

- EPA will develop a tentative schedule that will include the major tasks leading to implementation of Site remediation. These major tasks include completing the Feasibility Study Report, Proposed Plan, Record of Decision (ROD), and Remedial Design.

Questions and Responses:

- Question: How would the concrete cap affect the overall timeline of when the lot could be developed?
  EPA Response: We would like to keep the cap in place until we were comfortable that VOC vapors were not escaping from the ground surface.

- Question: There are schedule concerns related to the start of remediation during this summer. How do we know that it won't happen for two years?
  EPA Response: If we go through the whole process of final remedy, it may take longer, but a consideration is to implement the thermal and vapor extraction element as an interim remedy. If this occurs, we may be able to speed up the process.

- Question: How much would we expect this remedy to cost?
  EPA Response: Preliminary estimates have the cost for the thermal treatment of the NALPL/VOCs in the source area at somewhere in the 7 to 10 million dollar range.

Additional Comments from John Schweizer

Groundwater contaminated with VOCs has the potential to flow beneath homes, and the potential for vapor intrusion into homes and into the breathing space of residents. Fortunately, we have tested the breathing space in the homes of the community and VOCs from the AMCO site are not affecting homes in the community. However, having a contaminated mass in the community does present a risk and we should clean it up, if possible.

Results from the Greenaction Survey (Bradley Angel and Erin Chapman)

There has been concern for a long time about the location of South Prescott Park, notably the playground structure, with respect to the air quality in the vicinity of the Interstate 880 and the AMCO Chemical Superfund Site. The child playground structure is located particularly close to the freeway and Superfund Site. Greenaction developed and conducted a survey of residents in the South Prescott Community.

Survey questions addressed the following:

1. Awareness of the park and playground structure.
2. Awareness of the contamination hazards (AMCO and 880 Freeway) near the park.
3. Use of the park by residents.
4. Would residents be willing to move the playground structure to the other side of the park?
5. Would residents who own dogs advocate replacing the park with a dog park?

Summary of Results

- Most people weren't aware that the playground structure was in a contaminated location.
- Most people would like to see the playground structure moved to a safer location.
- Most people who owned dogs would approve building a dog park.

Final Notes/Comments

- Steve Calanog and Sarah Carfasso stated that EPA will work hard to develop a tentative schedule showing the major milestones leading to beginning remedial actions at the Site. This information will be placed on the AMCO Chemical Superfund Site website.

- John Schweizer highlighted that resident are free to contact him with any questions or concerns. Mr. Schweizer left contact cards on the table. He also holds office hours at the EPA trailer on Tuesdays from 1pm to 5pm.

- Brian Beveridge adjourned the CAG meeting.

Next CAG Meeting

- No tentative plans were made for the next CAG meeting.